

Applicant	:	Min Zhu
Appl. No.	:	09/751,548
Examiner	:	Aaron Strange
Docket No.	:	16440.4003

REMARKS

Claims 19 and 27 have been amended and new claim 33 has been added.

Claims 19-33 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0041]-[0042] of the application. Support for new claim 33 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0040] of the application.

Double Patenting

Claims 19-25 and 27-31 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 19-25 of copending Application No. 09/751,424 and claims 19-27 of copending Application No. 09/751, 806.

Independent claims 19 and 27 have each been amended to require determining whether a new collaborative server is needed to maintain a quality of service for the meeting zone and launching the new collaborative server if it is determined that the new collaborative server is needed. Applicant submits that this amendment patentably distinguishes the claims from those of the copending Applications, and that the provisional double patenting rejection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections

Claims 19-25 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Quantrano (US 6,748,420). Claims 26 and 32 were rejected under 35

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U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quantrano in view of Salesky (US 6,343,313). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 19 is patentable because none of the cited references, taken either alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests "a process manager operable to launch the collaborative servers" and a meeting manager operable "to determine whether a new collaborative server is needed to maintain a quality of service for the meeting zone, and to send a request to the process manager to launch the new collaborative server if the meeting manager determines that the new collaborative server is needed" (emphasis added). Quantrano is directed to a system for providing shared access to an application. In one embodiment, Quantrano discloses using a load director 28 to distribute participants of a shared session across multiple web servers 30-1, 30-P (see col. 29, line 66 to col. 30, line 21). However, nowhere does Quantrano disclose determining whether a new collaborative server is needed to maintain a quality of service for a meeting zone, much less launching, i.e., creating, the new collaborative server if it is determined that the new collaborative server is needed. The claimed invention advantageously scales a collaborative computing system so that additional user participants can be added to an in-progress collaborative meeting by launching new collaborative servers as they are needed. Salesky fails to disclose, teach or suggest the deficiencies in Quatrano.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claim 19 is patentable, and respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 19 be withdrawn.

Claims 20-26 depend from claim 19, and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 19.

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Claim 27 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of claim 19, and is patentable for the same reasons as claim 19.

Claims 28-32 depend from claim 27, and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 27.

New Claim

New claim 33 depends from claim 19, and is therefore patentable for at least the reasons given for claim 19. New claim 33 is additionally patentable because none of the cited references discloses, teaches or suggests "wherein each of the collaborative server is operable to send a traffic capacity of the respective collaborative server to the meeting manager" (emphasis added). The traffic capacity information provided by the collaborative servers advantageously enables the meeting manager to take into account differences in the traffic capacities of the collaborative servers when scaling the collaborative computing system.

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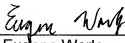
Conclusion

The applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any questions or comments, please call the undersigned at (949) 567-6700, or directly at (949) 852-7783. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Counsel's Deposit Account No. 15-0665 for the necessary fees, and is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required and to credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account 15-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

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